



INDIANA
DEPARTMENT
OF
HOMELAND
SECURITY:

*Safeguarding
Hoosiers by
Planning,
Preparing and
Responding*

Inside this
issue:

Hybrid Safety Alert 2

Preparing for Pan-
demic Flu 2

Evaluating County
Courthouse Safety 3

Scott County EMS 3

John Buckman Joins
IDHS Training Divi-
sion 4

Mark Your Calendar 4

Thanksgiving
Thought From
Marshal Johnson 5

THE HOOSIER RESPONDER

Volume 1, Issue 2

NOVEMBER 2005

IDHS Praises Local Response to November 6 Tornado

by Roger Johnson, Indiana State Fire Marshal

In the early morning hours of November 6, a devastating tornado struck southern Indiana and Kentucky resulting in over 200 injuries and 24 deaths.

When responding firefighters from Knight Township in Vanderburgh County arrived on scene, they found hundreds of injured citizens and a number of fatalities. Knight Township Fire Department's Assistant Chief Naylor took action quickly as incident commander. He promptly activated mutual aid from all Vanderburgh County fire and EMS agencies, in addition to requesting mutual aid from neighboring Kentucky and Illinois fire and EMS departments. He also requested the

Indiana Department Homeland Security Mass Casualty Incident Response trailer recently housed with the Vincennes Township Fire Department.

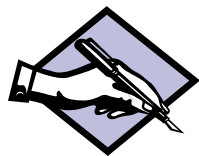
At the scene of the disaster, Governor Mitch Daniels praised the efforts of the more than 400 firefighters and rescue members that responded to this tragic event. He further stated that the efforts of Indiana's firefighters and emergency services members were a testimony to our level of preparedness. Governor Daniels also thanked mutual aid agencies that responded from neighboring states and communities like Dubois County, who commandeered a school



Above: Eastbrook Mobile Home Park in Evansville suffered widespread damage as a result of the November 6 tornado.

bus to transport over 70 firefighters with full equipment.

On behalf of IDHS, I want to commend Chief Naylor for his calm demeanor in overseeing the events of that day. I also want to recognize the efforts of Vincennes Township
(continued on pg. 4)



From the Desk of Director Dietz

During the closing months of October, IDHS commenced annual Emergency Management Assistance (EMA) workshops throughout Indiana. These workshops provide local officials an overview of IDHS, in addition to how we can work with and assist local jurisdictions.

I stressed at each workshop how teamwork is our most

important asset. Before our workshops concluded this year, we witnessed the benefits of teamwork as we responded with local officials to disaster scenarios discussed during the meetings.

During the early morning hours of November 6, a tornado tore a destructive path through Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties. The pic-

tures shot across the country showed the storm's toll - numerous homes lost, debris scattered for miles and lives forever changed. Moreover, sadly, we mourn the loss of 24 fellow Hoosiers, victims of the tornado.

Shortly after the tornado struck, local and state emergency response officials,
(continued on pg. 4)

Toyota's Emergency Response Guide includes information on:

- Hybrid Identification
- Hybrid Synergy Drive Component Locations & Descriptions
- Hybrid Synergy Operation
- Hybrid Vehicle Battery Pack & Auxiliary Battery
- High Voltage Safety
- SRS Airbags & Seat Belt Pretensioners
- Emergency Response
- Roadside Assistance

Toyota Issues Alert to First Responders on Hybrids

Toyota recently contacted the State Fire Marshal's office regarding their gasoline-electric hybrid vehicles and proper handling procedures of the vehicles by first responders. The company recently published Emergency Response Guides to educate and assist first responders.

Earlier this month, staff from IDHS' Division of Fire and Building Safety attended a training program on safety issues with hybrid vehicles at the new Toyota manufacturing plant in Gibson County. The staff members hope to share what they

learned with fire and emergency service personnel throughout the state.

According to State Fire Marshal Roger Johnson, "The battery systems in these vehicles will respond differently during a car fire or accident. Therefore, responders must realize the added and different hazards that exist during extrication procedures. Additionally, these vehicles also possess extra electrical hazards and a different process to deactivate its electrical systems."

The State Fire Marshal's office urges all first responders in Indiana to take time to review Toyota's Emergency Response Guides at <http://techinfo.toyota.com>. After arriving at the site, access the Emergency Response & Hybrid Information link and then access response guide for the desired vehicle.

Preparing for Pandemic Influenza



Frequent hand washing and covering coughs and sneezes with a tissue are both simple, common sense steps to stop the spread of germs which may cause the flu.



The Indiana State Department of Health's Pandemic Influenza Plan, the state's plan to prepare and respond to a widespread pandemic flu is available at: <http://www.in.gov/isdh/pdfs/PandemicInfluenzaPlan.pdf>

The Indiana State Department of Health also provides common questions and answers about pandemic flu available at: [http://www.in.gov/isdh/pdfs/Pandemic-AvianInfluenzaQandA20A\(2\).pdf](http://www.in.gov/isdh/pdfs/Pandemic-AvianInfluenzaQandA20A(2).pdf)

A pandemic is a global disease outbreak. An influenza pandemic occurs when a new influenza A virus emerges for which there is little or no immunity in the human population, begins to cause serious illness and then spreads easily person-to-person worldwide.

The federal government, states, communities and industry are taking steps to prepare for and respond to an influenza pandemic.

A pandemic is likely to be a prolonged and widespread outbreak that could require temporary changes in many areas of society, such as schools, work, transportation and other public services. An informed and prepared public can take appropriate actions to decrease their risk during a pandemic.

Communities, Businesses and Individuals Should:

- Develop preparedness plans as you would for

other public health emergencies.

- Participate and promote public health efforts in your state and community.
- Talk with your local public health officials and health care providers; they can supply information about the signs and symptoms of a specific disease outbreak.
- Implement prevention and control actions recommended by your public health officials and providers.
- Adopt business/school practices that encourage sick employees/students to stay home.
- Anticipate how to function with a significant portion of the workforce/school population absent due to illness or caring for ill family members.
- Practice good health habits, including eating a balanced diet, exercising daily, and getting sufficient rest and take these common-sense

steps to stop the spread of germs.

- Wash hands frequently with soap and water.
- Cover coughs and sneezes with tissues.
- Stay away from others as much as possible if you are sick.
- Stay informed about pandemic influenza and be prepared to respond.
- Consult www.pandemicflu.gov frequently for updates on national and international information on pandemic influenza.
- Use national and local pandemic hotlines that will be established in the eventuality of a global influenza outbreak.
- Listen to radio and television and read media stories about pandemic flu.

Source: U.S. Department of Homeland Security

IDHS Partners with Rose-Hulman to Evaluate County Courthouse Security

Earlier this year, IDHS identified the need for an improved system to categorize and assess the security and structural vulnerability of county courthouses throughout the state. Guidelines developed by the U.S. Department of Defense, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and other organizations provided vital information to assess the security and vulnerability of buildings. However, these materials did not foster the development of a systematic approach to address courthouse security measures, observable physical characteristics, or the structural integrity of a building, if subjected to an explosion.

This past summer, three students from Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology took on the task of assessing Indiana county

courthouse security. Their work resulted in the Indiana Courthouse Security Screening Assessment (ICSSA), a tool that enables county personnel to evaluate courthouse security in a few hours and understand how their facility compared to others within the state.

The ICSSA includes a simple Microsoft Excel® workbook that weighs parameters to highlight courthouse characteristics that require attention, offers representative scaling of structural safety, and provides recommendations for overall mitigation.

The students tested the ICSSA on three courthouses in Indiana to identify areas of particular need and to permit comparison between facilities. The assessment identified areas of weakness and provide the counties

documentation to justify funding activities to increase the security of their courthouse.

By creating an assessment process that is simple yet insightful, the students hope the ICSSA will educate county leadership on how easily they might upgrade their courthouse security and how their courthouse compares to others.



Above: Washington County Courthouse on a sunny, fall day.

To learn more about ICSSA, contact David Barrabee, IDHS Homeland Security Planner, at 317-233-6116 or dbarrabee@dhs.in.gov.

If your county is interested in obtaining ICSSA, contact Larry Copley, IDHS Local Support Branch Chief, at 317-234-2744 or lcopley@dhs.in.gov.

IDHS Congratulates Scott County EMS

In October, staff from IDHS' Division of Fire and Building Safety joined members of Scott County Emergency Medical Services for an open house. The event recognized the milestones met by the organization over the past year.

Scott County EMS started on January 1, 2005. Within the first 90 days, under the leadership of Director David Murphy, the organization purchased five ambulances and all necessary equipment. Murphy oversaw the hiring and training of all staff, in addition to obtaining required certifications and licenses.

On March 31, 2005, Scott County's first county operated EMS began operations. At

11:06 a.m. that day, they received their first call. Over 2,500 calls later, the Scott County EMS is going strong.

"We want to commend Scott County for taking the initiative to develop such an important service for their citizens," said Mike Garvey, Deputy State Fire Marshal and Deputy Director of IDHS' Division of Fire and Building Safety. "I am certain there are already numerous citizens of Scott County grateful for this health and safety service."

IDHS' Division of Fire and Building Services offers technical assistance to counties interested in developing an emergency medical service.



Left: Scott County EMS shows off the organization's personnel and equipment at an open house on October 29, 2005.



If you are interested in learning more about creating an EMS in your county, contact Sherrie Crain, IDHS EMS Operations Director, at 317-232-6788 or scrain@dhs.in.gov.

John Buckman Joins IDHS Division of Training

In an effort to advance the Statewide Firefighter Training System (SFTS), John Buckman joins IDHS' Division of Training as a Special Projects Manager. In this capacity, Buckman will develop a framework for the SFTS that will include a regional delivery component, web based training, adjunct instructor network, regional facility development and a central state training facility. The SFTS will also include an examination of EMS training needs.

The framework for the training system will include developing organizational structures, identifying staffing requirements, determining budgets, identifying

funding, creating criteria for curriculum and developing processes for implementation.

Most importantly, as Special Projects Manager, Buckman will communicate frequently and openly with firefighters and EMS personnel. Their input will assist IDHS in determining the essential training components in addition to how the department can offer training in a user-friendly manner.

Buckman will draw upon years of experience in the fire service in his new role at IDHS. His record of service includes 35 years with the German Township

Volunteer Fire Department and a member of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security Advisory Task Force, the Presidential Commission on America Burning and the Fire Engineering Editorial Advisory Board. Additionally, Buckman served as President of the International Association of Fire Chiefs and authored a number of books and articles for fire service publications.



Above: John Buckman of IDHS' Division of Training.

IDHS Praises Local Response

cont'd from pg. 1

Fire Chief Tim Smith, also the President of the Indiana Fire Chiefs Association, who responded with the mass casualty incident trailer and joined Chief Naylor as a support Incident Commander through out the rescue operations. Finally, I also want to thank all the local responders, IDHS search and rescue personnel and FEMA Indiana Taskforce One for their extraordinary efforts in the response and recovery efforts.

IDHS looks forward to sharing lessons learned from the events of November 6. Therefore, additional reports of response and recovery efforts as the result of the November 6 tornado will appear in upcoming issues of The Hoosier Responder.

Stay alert and be safe!

From Desk of Director Dietz

cont'd from pg. 1

together, took rapid action to begin the response and recovery effort. The professionalism shown by our first responders displayed Indiana's level of preparedness and emphasis on teamwork to get the job done. FEMA praised us for our efforts. Acting FEMA Director, R. David Paulison said, "I am extremely proud of this state. I'm proud of Emergency Management Center, the local police and fire, the local emergency management people."

The responses to this unfortunate event and the tornadoes that struck Indiana the following week speaks volumes to our ability to work as a team to cooperate during a crisis.

We also learned from these events. We learned more about the value of a good district representative from our office. We learned more about managing the FEMA response to Indiana disasters.

Nevertheless, we cannot rest. Everyday we must recommit ourselves to further enhancing our skills, continually keeping lines of communication open between disciplines and maintaining the mentality we must operate as a team. These things are essential to doing what we must do - as a team - like our department "tag line" states: "Safeguarding Hoosiers by Planning, Preparing and Responding." Hoosiers are depending on it.

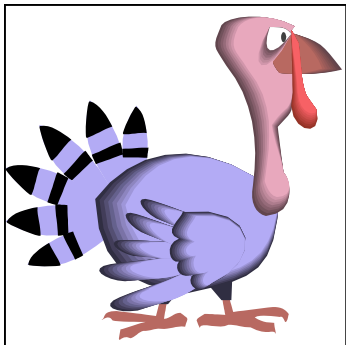
Mark Your Calendar!



December 6
Fire Prevention & Building Safety Commission Meeting (9am, Indiana Government Center, Conference Room B)

December 7
Boiler & Pressure Vessel Rules Board Meeting (10am, Indiana Government Center Room #12)

December 12
Firefighters Standards Board Meeting (10am, Wayne Township Fire Department, Room C)



A Thanksgiving Thought from the State Fire Marshal: *Deep Fry Outside!!!*

As we approach the Thanksgiving Holiday, I recall the television commercial recently ran by an insurance company. A man is standing next to a turkey and a deep fryer on what looks like a perfect autumn day. The story he tells viewers, though, depicts what is not a perfect Thanksgiving celebration. He tells viewers how many Americans will deep-fry their turkey this Thanksgiving and that several of them will successfully set fire to their homes.

Common sense tells us if you are going to cook with five gallons of hot oil and open flame, do so OUTSIDE and AWAY from any structure. So, if you plan to deep-fry your turkey this year, please do so away from any portions of your home or other buildings. Also, please remember to not attempt to move the hot oil and please keep small children and others clear of the fryer at all times.

Personally, I love fried turkey. Nevertheless, the Division of Fire and Build-

ing staff and I would really rather spend time with our families this holiday instead of investigating a turkey fryer blaze in your community.

Therefore, I urge you to remind your community to play it safe with turkey frying this year. The safety tips you can pass on to those in your community who plan to fry their bird this year are:

- Keep the fryer outside.
- Never leave the fryer unattended.
- Make sure everyone, especially children, are a safe distance from the fryer.
- Never attempt to move the frying pot while the oil is hot.

On behalf of everyone with IDHS' Division of Fire and Building Safety, I wish you a happy and safe Turkey Day!



*Indiana Department of Homeland Security
Safeguarding Hoosiers by
Planning, Preparing and Responding*

*302 West Washington Street
Indiana Government Center South
Room E208
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317-232-3980 / 800-669-7362*

The Hoosier Responder is a publication of the Indiana Department of Homeland Security. Please direct any questions or comments to the IDHS Public Information and Outreach Office at 317-232-6632.